

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 151419
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02
INR-10 /074 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR

APPROVED BY AF/P:FDHOOK

-----066202 151148Z /41

R 142227Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 151419

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 151419

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 14, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
WILL FOLLOW:

Q: YESTERDAY A QUESTION WAS ASKED ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
CUBA. CAN YOU FILL US IN ANY MORE THAN YOU COULD YESTER-
DAY ABOUT WHAT WE TOLD MR. CASTRO AND WHETHER WE EXPRESSED
SOME SATISFACTION WITH HIS STATEMENTS OR GAVE HIM ANY
IMPLIED ENDORSEMENT?

A: I TOOK TWO QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO MESSAGES FROM US TO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 151419

THE CUBANS, AND BOTH ANSWERS HAVE BEEN POSTED. THAT WAS
WITH REGARD TO MEETINGS IN HAVANA AND WITH REGARD TO TWO
MEETINGS IN NEW YORK. (SPOKESMAN READ Q'S AND A'S AT THE
END OF THE BRIEFING)

Q: DO YOU HAVE MORE INFORMATION OR MORE SPECIFICS ON
CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRAINING OF THE KATANGAN FORCES?
OBVIOUSLY, THE WHITE HOUSE HAS GIVEN OUT SOME DETAILED
INFORMATION.

A: I'VE SEEN SOME PRESS REPORTS AND WE HAVE HAD AVAILABLE
TO US SIMILAR INFORMATION TO SOME OF THE PRESS REPORTS
THAT I'VE SEEN.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON WHAT PRESIDENT CASTRO
TOLD VISITING AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN?

A: NO.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT MR. CASTRO'S
CLAIM THAT HE TRIED TO HEAD OFF THE INVASION OF SHABA?

A: I DON'T. NO.

Q: I ALSO WONDERED WHETHER YOU COULD EXPLAIN IN GARNERING THE EVIDENCE ABOUT THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA, WAS THE TASK SET TO GATHER WHATEVER EVIDENCE YOU COULD TO PROVE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT OR WAS THE TASK SET TO GATHER ALL THE EVIDENCE YOU HAVE AND SEE WHAT IT PROVES?

A: I THINK THAT'S REALLY A QUESTION FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ANALYZE INTELLIGENCE DATA; IT'S NOT A QUESTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO ANSWER FROM THIS PODIUM.

Q: WAS THERE ANY EXCULPATORY EVIDENCE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD ABOUT?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 151419

A: I'M AFRAID I'M REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS THAT QUESTION FOR YOU.

Q: THE CONGRESSMEN ALSO QUOTED CASTRO AS SAYING HIS FORCES WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE ERITREAN OPERATION BY THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT?

A: I THINK WE'VE ADDRESSED THAT BEFORE, I THINK I JUST HAVE TO GO BACK AND REFER YOU TO THE RECORD ON IT.

Q: WHEN MR. GROMYKO WAS HERE, HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE INFORMATION TO PRESIDENT CARTER WAS INACCURATE ABOUT THE RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. NOW, MR. CASTRO IS SAYING THE SAME THING, SO CAN YOU TELL US WHO IS TELLING THE TRUTH RIGHT NOW?

A: I CAN'T SAY. YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN ALL THROUGH THIS FOR WEEKS AND WEEKS.

Q: IS THERE AN EFFORT TO REEVALUATE THE DATA THAT YOU HAD AVAILABLE FOR YOUR FIRST CONCLUSION ABOUT THE OPERATIONS OF THE CUBANS AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT?

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, ALTHOUGH I AM NOT AN EXPERT IN THESE THINGS, BUT I GATHER THAT SUCH INFORMATION IS ALWAYS BEING REEVALUATED.

Q: DID YOU TELL LARS BEFORE THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AT ALL THAT CASTRO TRIED TO HEAD OFF THE INVASION?

A: NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF THAT WE HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT CON-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 151419

FIRMATION OF.

Q: CAN YOU DEAL WITH THAT A LITTLE MORE COMPLETELY?

A: I CAN'T, REALLY.

Q: DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU ARE REEVALUATING THE ORIGINAL DATA THAT LED TO THE CHARGES?

A: NO, NO. WE ARE STANDING ON THE POSITION WHICH WE HAVE EXPRESSED HERE AND ELSEWHERE. I WAS SAYING GENERICALLY THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS UPDATING INFORMATION AND LOOKING AT THINGS. IT'S NOT TO BE TAKEN AS A SHIFT OF ANYTHING.

THERE WERE TWO QUESTIONS YESTERDAY. THE FIRST WAS: "LAST NIGHT IN HAVANA, CUBAN PRESIDENT CASTRO HAD AN INTERVIEW WITH SEVERAL REPORTERS. AMONG OTHER THINGS HE SAID THAT ON MAY 19TH, TWO DAYS AFTER THE MEETING WITH THE U.S. HEAD OF THE INTERESTS SECTION, LYLE LANE, HE RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING FROM SECRETARY VANCE HIS APPRECIATION AT WHAT CASTRO SAID, AND MAKING CERTAIN OTHER REMARKS. CAN YOU CONFIRM TO US THAT THIS MESSAGE WAS FROM SECRETARY VANCE AND CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IT SAID?

ANSWER: "OUR INTEREST SECTION IN HAVANA DID CONVEY TO VICE MINISTER ANILLO A STRAIGHTFORWARD MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY VANCE FOR THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER.

THIS MESSAGE DID NOT STATE OR IMPLY THAT WE ACCEPTED THE CUBAN CLAIM OF TOTAL NON-INVOLVEMENT. THE MESSAGE DID NOT EVEN REFER TO CLAIMS THAT CUBA HAD TRIED TO PREVENT THE INVASION. AFTER SAYING WE WERE PLEASED TO NOTE" -- AND I WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT, "NOTE" -- CASTRO'S ASSURANCES, THE MESSAGE SAID CLEARLY THAT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE VIEWED WITH THE GREATEST CONCERN. IT EXPRESSED ALSO OUR SERIOUS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 151419

CONCERN ABOUT THE KATANGAN ATTACK AND THE SAFETY OF FOREIGNERS IN SHABA, AND STATED WE HOPED CASTRO SHARED THE SAME CONCERN AND WOULD ACT ACCORDINGLY."

NOW, IT I MAY FOLLOW ON TO THE SECOND AND RELATED QUESTION, "WAS THERE A MEETING BY A U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN NEW YORK WITH MR. RODRIGUEZ, THE CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT, ON OR

ABOUT MAY 18TH OR 19TH IN WHICH COMMENTS WERE MADE PRAISING
OR EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF THE CUBAN ROLE VIS-A-VIS THE
SHABA BUSINESS?"

ANSWER: "CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ, WHO REPRESENTED
HIS GOVERNMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, ARRIVED IN NEW YORK AFTER
MAY 23RD. AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH MR. RODRIGUEZ ON MAY
24TH. ON MAY 25TH, SECRETARY VANCE, ALSO IN NEW YORK TO
ATTEND THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, MET WITH MR. RODRIGUEZ.
AT EACH OF THESE MEETINGS DISCUSSIONS COVERED A NUMBER OF
SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, OF WHICH SHABA WAS ONE. U.S.
CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN SHABA WAS EXPRESSED. NO COM-
MENTS WERE MADE THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS 'PRAISE OR
APPRECIATION' OF THE CUBA ROLE VIS-A-VIS THE SHABA BUSINESS.
CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE151419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BARUSSELL:ADR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780250-0213
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780659/aaaabypu.tel
Line Count: 240
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5675e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2348500
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 14, 1978 FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY
TAGS: SOPN, CU
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5675e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014